Mr Kakoulides translation of The Book of Haggai with Notes

Cyrus II who reigned from 559-530 B.C issued a proclamation in his 1st year after the conquest of Babylon 538 B.C that the peoples who was taken captive by Babylon which included Judah could return to their land and rebuild their temple provided they would pray for the king and his family . The events of the Book of Haggai comes 18 years later after this event.

When Judah returned to the promise Land, they started building the temple but right in the start of it , they ceased from the work , and while they lived in thier own finished paneled houses , the Temple of God was unfinished , So God used two prophets to motivate the people to build the Temple again and that was Haggai and Zechariah. Ezra 4:24, 5:1 Haggai was the first to be used and whose minstry only lasted a little over three months from August 29 to December 18 of 520 B.C. About a month after he began Zechariah started his ministry as a prophet aswell. But even when the people was building there was a couple issues that had to be delt with, the people was unclean who was building the temple and needed to be cleanse before they continued. When the Temple was finished those who seen the first temple over 60 year before wept and complained because it wasn't as beatiful and large as it once was which of course discourage those who was happy the temple was rebuilt . Because of this Haggai had to tell the people the glory that was in the former temple will not be compare to the glory which will be in this temple . Many years latter Herod the Great renovated the temple making it more beatiful than that Solomon had made. But that wasn't enough Jesus who is God in human flesh would enter the temple. There is a great importance given to the Last three books of the Old Testament because Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi are the last prophets of the Old Testament ; after them, prophecy ceased

according to Jewish tradition . Yoma 9b; b. Sot. 48b , 1 Maccabees 9:27 , Never again after them was the vioce from a prophet of God was to be heard till over 400 years latter with the minstry of John the Baptist. That is why people came from long distance to the wilderness to hear John the baptist speak as he prepared the way for the Messiah.

Haggai name means "feast or solemnity" Which he might of been born on a certain feast day nothing is known of his parents or how old he was in the days of his five articles which he gives in this short little book.

The dates and verses of the articles are as follows :

A) 1:1 {August 29}

B) 1:15 {September 21}

C) 2:1 {October 17}

D) 2:10 {December 18}

E) 2:20 {December 18 }

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The Command to Build the Temple

Haggai 1:1 In the 2nd year of King Darius, in the 1st of 'Elul (6th month, on the 1st day) of the month, the word of the YHWH came by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua (Jeshua) the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying,

The date is August 29 520 B.C. King Darius reigned from 521-486 B.C.

Haggai 1:2 "Thus speaks the YHWH of Armies, saying: 'This people says, "The time has not come, the time that the YHWH's house should be built."

Septuagint states "Lord Almighty" instead of "YHWH of Armies" throughout the book of Haggai

Haggai 1:3 Then the word of the YHWH came by Haggai the prophet, saying,

Haggai 1:4 "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?"

The Temple was destroyed by King of Babylon Nebuchadnezzar II in 586 B.C. 2 Kings 25:8-9, 2 Chronicles 36:17-19 , Jeremiah 52:12-14. The temple was in ruins for 66 years.

Haggai 1:5 Now therefore, thus says the YHWH of Armies : "Consider your ways!

Haggai 1:6 "You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but never become drunken (recieve your fill) ; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes."

Haggai 1:7 Thus says the YHWH of Armies: "Consider your ways!

Haggai 1:8 "Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says the YHWH.

Haggai 1:9 "You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?" says the YHWH of Armies. "Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house.

Haggai 1:10 "Therefore the heavens above you withhold the rain, and the earth withholds its crops (fruit, produce, increase, possessions) .

There was two main seasons of rain which the Land of Israel depend on for a success in planting and harvesting. Deuteronomy 11:14 Former or Early rain fell on October/ November and the Latter rain fell on March / April.

Haggai 1:11 "For I called for a drought on the land and the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands."

The People Obey

Haggai 1:12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the YHWH their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the YHWH their God had sent him; and the people feared (were terrified) the presence of the YHWH.

Haggai 1:13 Then Haggai, the YHWH's messenger, spoke the YHWH's message to the people, saying, "I am with you, says the YHWH."

Haggai 1:14 So the YHWH stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the YHWH of Armies, their Elohim (God) ,

Haggai 1:15 *this happen* on the 24th day of the month of Elul (the 6th month), in the 2nd year of King Darius.

September 21, 520 B.C.

The Coming Glory of the Temple

Haggai 2:1 *And now* on the 21 of the month of Tishri (the 7th month) , the word of the YHWH came by Haggai the prophet, saying

October 17, 520 B.C.

Haggai 2:2 "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, saying:

Haggai 2:3 'Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now?

In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing?

Among the people there was the elders who saw the first temple which was built by Solomon and compared what they saw with what was being built in comparson and was disappointed Ezra 3:12-13, Zechariah 4:8-10

Haggai 2:4 'Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the YHWH; 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all you people of the land,' says the YHWH, 'and work; for I am with you,' says the YHWH of Armies.

Haggai 2:5 'According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!'

Haggai 2:6 "For thus says the YHWH of Armies: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land;

Haggai 2:7 'and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to that which is Desirable of (the Desire of, the treasure of) all nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the YHWH of Armies.

What or who is the desirable of all nations? There is differant opinions about this desirable of all nations some say it is speaking about the messiah others say about objects of worth. But both was fullfilled. Herod made the temple of God desirable among the nations with its gold and ornaments. Mark 13:1, Luke 21:5 Also Jesus as the messiah came to his temple bringing with him the glory of God for a time.

Haggai 2:8 ' I own the silver as I own the gold ,' says the YHWH of Armies.

In other words whatever is your need in this project , I will supply it , It reminds us of YHWH -Jireh a name of God found in Genesis 22:13-14 Where Abraham saw God supplying the ram for a offering in the place of his son Issac. God says he owns all the wealth in the world. We see this also in the Psalms. Psalms 24:1, 50:10-12 Now he who owns everything why will he not supply for his temple which needs to be rebuilt ? Of course he will supply. He who trusts in God will see God supplying all his needs but not always all his wants.

Haggai 2:9 'The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the YHWH of Armies . 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the YHWH of Armies."

Herod's temple was truly more beatiful , great than that of Solomon which only took 7 years to be built. 1 Kings 7:1, 9:10, 2 Chronicles 8:1 While Herod took over 70 years in remolding the house of God starting in 20 B.C. and being completed in 66 A.D

The People Are Unclean

Haggai 2:10 On the 24th day of the month of Kislev (the 9th month), in the 2nd year of Darius, the word of the YHWH came by Haggai the prophet, saying,

Dec. 18, 520 B.C .

Haggai 2:11 "Thus says the YHWH of Armies: 'Now, ask the priests concerning the law, saying,

Haggai 2:12 "If one carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and with the edge he touches bread or stew, wine or oil, or any food, will it become holy?" Then the priests answered and said, "No."

In the Old Covenant you wasn't made holy or spiritaully clean by what you touched or what that which was holy made things clean by what it touched . You must already had to be clean or holy before you touched that which is clean or else you would ruin it's holiness. Leviticus 6:27, 7:6 Ezekiel 44:19

Haggai 2:13 And Haggai said, "If one who is unclean because of a dead body touches any of these, will it be unclean?" So the priests answered and said, "It shall be unclean."

According to Numbers 19:11–13, Leviticus 21:1-2, 11 is clear that a person who touches a dead body was unclean for seven days and whatsoever or whosoever he or she touches was unclean aswell. Amazing how Jesus touched the unclean and made it clean without making himself unclean. Matthew 8:3 Yet in the old covenant whatever that was clean was easliy made unclean by what they touched.

Haggai 2:14 Then Haggai answered and said," 'So is this people, and so is this nation before Me,' says the YHWH, 'and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer it is unclean.

What made these people unclean ?

1) Their pagan wives and the divorce of their Hebrew wives. Ezra 9:1, 10:2 ,Nehemiah 13:23, Malachi 2:11-17

2) Their neglect of the building of the temple while making sacrifices to God. Ezra 3:6

3) The Treatment Jews had towards their own poor brethren in charging them usury, taking from them thier possesions if they didn't pay and even making them salves. Nehemiah 5:5-13, Leviticus 25:36

Septuagint states "Thereupon Haggai said in reply, so is this people and so is this nation before me, saith the Lord: and so are all the works of their hands. And whoever shall come near there shall be polluted because of their morning burdens. Are they to be afflicted with grief on account of their toils? And have you hated a reprover in the gates?"

Promised Blessing

Haggai 2:15 'And now, carefully consider from this day onward: from before stone was laid upon stone in the temple of the YHWH

Haggai 2:16 'since those days, when a person came to a heap of 20 measures (20 ephahs), there were but 10 ; when one came to the wine vat to draw out 303 gallons (50 baths) from the press, there were but 121 gallons (20 baths) .

Septuagint states "When you came to measure 20 measures of barley, it has become 10. And when you went to the wine lake to draw off 50 measures, there were only 20."

Haggai 2:17 'I struck you with blight and mildew and hail in all the labors of your hands; yet you did not turn to Me,' says the YHWH.

Haggai 2:18 'Consider now from this day onward, from the 24th day of the month of Kislev (the 9th month) , from the day that the foundation of the YHWH's temple was laid-consider it:

The date was December 18, 520 B.C .

Haggai 2:19 'Is the seed still in the barn? As yet the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not yielded fruit. But from this day I will bless you.'"

Septuagint states " lay up in your minds whether that will be the case in the threshing floor? whether the vine or the fig tree or the pomegranate or the olive tree will any more be unproductive? From this very day I will bless. "

Zerubbabel Chosen as a Signet Ring

Haggai 2:20 And again the word of the YHWH came to Haggai on the 24th day of the month, saying,

The date was December 18

Haggai 2:21 "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying: 'I will shake heaven and earth.

Haggai 2:22 I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms. I will overthrow the chariots And those who ride in them; The horses and their riders shall come down, Every one by the sword of his brother.

Haggai 2:23 'In that day,' says the YHWH of Armies , 'I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel,' says the YHWH, 'and will make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you,' says the YHWH of Armies."

The signet ring that was taken away in Coniah by God is put back in his hand because of Zerubbabel .Jeremiah 22:24-30 This is why both of them is seen in the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah. Matthew 1:1-16